

Message Text

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43

ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9077

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 1050

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC MH (BRAMBLE, PERCY AUSTIN)

SUBJ: NOMINATION OF P. AUSTIN BRAMBLE FOR CU/IVP GRANT

REF: (A) STATE 090985; (B) BTN 1026; (C) BTN 0621

1. NAME: BRAMBLE, PERCY AUSTIN

2. SIGNIFICANT POSITIONS:

PRESENT: P. AUSTIN BRAMBLE IS CURRENTLY MONTSERRAT'S CHIEF MINISTER. AS SUCH, HE IS THE HEAD OF GOVERNMENT IN MONTSERRAT, A PRACTICALLY SELF-GOVERNING BRITISH CROWN COLONY. THE BRITISH RETAIN CONTROL OVER DEFENSE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MOST FINANCIAL MATTERS, BUT THE LOCAL ELECTED GOVERNMENT UNDER BRAMBLE'S DIRECTION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OTHER GOVERNMENTAL MATTERS, INCLUDING RESIDUAL FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.

PAST: BRAMBLE, WHO SUCCEEDED HIS FATHER WILLIAM BRAMBLE AS CHIEF MINISTER OF MONTSERRAT WHEN THE FORMER'S PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATIC PARTY DEFEATED THE LATTER'S MONTSERRAT LABOUR PARTY IN DECEMBER 1970 ELECTION. FORMERLY SERVED AS MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS AND AS MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH IN HIS FATHER'S GOVERNMENT.

3. PERSONAL DATA: BORN IN MONTSERRAT ON JANUARY 24, 1931, BRAMBLE IS A BRITISH NATIONAL BECAUSE OF MONTSERRAT'S PRESENT COLONIAL STATUS.

4. TRAVEL ABROAD: CHIEF MINISTER BRAMBLE HAS TRAVELLED EXTENSIVE-
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LY WITHIN THE CARIBBEAN REGION TO ATTEND MINISTERIAL AND HEADS OF

GOVERNMENT CONFERENCES, BUT OUTSIDE OF THE REGION HE HAS ONLY TRAVELLED TO THE UK AND US. HIS TRAVELS WITHIN THE US HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO VERY SHORT GOVERNMENT BUSINESS TRIPS TO NEW YORK, ST. LOUIS AND DENVER.

5. PREVIOUS U.S. GOVERNMENT GRANT: THE NOMINEE HAS NEVER PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED A GRANT FROM THE USG.

6. ESCORT SERVICES: ESCORT SERVICE SHOULD BE PROVIDED BUT AN INTERPRETER IS NOT NEEDED.

7. TENTATIVE VISA ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION: NOMINEE APPEARS ELIGIBLE FOR A J-1 VISA.

8. REASON FOR NOMINATION: AS CHIEF MINISTER OF ONE OF THE MOST PEACEFUL AND BEST GOVERNED ISLANDS IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN, AND STILL A YOUNG MAN, BRAMBLE IS CERTAINLY WORTH CULTIVATING. IN FACT, MUCH OF THE CREDIT FOR MONTserrat'S STABILITY CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE HARD WORKING BRAMBLE, WHO UNLIKE SOME OF THE NEIGHBORING ISLANDS' LEADERS IS NOT ABOUT TO BE STAMPEDED INTO DEMANDING POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE FROM THE UK WITHOUT FIRST ENSURING THAT THE "EMERALD ISLE" (AS MONTserrat IS KNOWN) HAS ECONOMIC VIABILITY.

LIKE MOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN, BRITISH-EDUCATED BRAMBLE HAS MAINLY A TEXT-BOOK ACQUAINTANCE WITH THE USG AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. BASICALLY FRIENDLY TO THE USG AND ACCESSIBLE TO AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS, BRAMBLE (AND US RELATIONS WITH MONTserrat) WOULD BENEFIT FROM HIS EXPOSURE TO AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. AN INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANT WOULD INCREASE BRAMBLE'S UNDERSTANDING OF UNITED STATES AND WOULD IMMEASURABLY ADD TO HIS PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT.

9. POST OBJECTIVE OF US VISIT: THE EMBASSY'S OBJECTIVES IN EXTENDING A CU/IVP GRANT TO CHIEF MINISTER P. AUSTIN BRAMBLE OF MONTserrat ARE TO: RECOGNIZE AND REWARD THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE HARDWORKING BRAMBLE IN MAINTAINING PEACE AND STABILITY IN MONTserrat, AN ISLAND WHERE A LARGE NUMBER OF AMERICAN AND CANADIAN EX-PATRIATE RETIREES MAINTAIN THEIR HOMES; TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE UNCLASSIFIED

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THE CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP THAT ALREADY EXIST BETWEEN THE MONTserrat GOVERNMENT AND THE EMBASSY; AND TO ENCOURAGE THE SENSITIVE AND INTELLIGENT CHIEF MINISTER, A SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST, TO CONTINUE TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN PROMOTING REGIONAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION WHICH FURTHERS USG'S INTEREST IN SEEING THAT S REGION IS NOT "BALKANIZED" ANY MORE THAT IT ALREADY IS.

10. POST ESTIMATE OF NOMINEE'S AVAILABILITY DATES FOR US PROGRAM:

UPON NOTIFICATION BY THE DEPARTMENT THAT THIS NOMINATION HAS
BEEN APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE, WE WILL ASCERTAIN HIS AVAILABILITY.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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